

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMCONGEN DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

UNCLAS MANAMA 655

AID ALSO FOR NE/ME

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT : GOB CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

1. GOB SIGNED A BROAD-GAUGED CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT WITH
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IN EARLY MARCH.
CONTRACT SIGNED BY GOB MINISTER OF STATE FOR CABINET
AFFAIRS, JAWAD AL-URRAYED AND BY PRESIDENT OF USC.
AGREEMENT, AS WE UNDERSTAND ITS SOMEWHAT LOOSELY DEFINED
PURPOSE, COVERS SUPPLY OF VARIOUS "TASK FORCES" COMPOSED
OF 3-5 USC PROFESSORS/EXPERTS WHO WILL RESPOND TO
REQUESTS FOR "ADVICE" FROM GOB. INITIALLY, GROUP
ACCOMPANYING USC PRESIDENT FOR CEREMONIAL SIGNING
OF AGREEMENT HAS BEEN ASKED TO SKETCH BROAD OUTLINES
OF NATIONAL PLANNING AGENCY WHICH WOULD OPERATE OUT
OF OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER THROUGH MINISTER OF
STATE AL-URRAYED, WHOSE OFFICE IS TURNING INTO
EXECUTOR/EVALUATOR OF CABINET/PRIME MINISTER'S
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POLICY DECISIONS.

2. NEXT TASK FOR USC GROUP WILL BE LAUNCHING OF
"MANAGEMENT TRAINING SEMINARS" FOR DIRECTOR-LEVEL
GOB CIVIL SERVANTS AND BELOW. EVEN MINISTERS WILL
RECEIVE "ORIENTATION" SEMINARS IN MODERN MANAGEMENT
TECHNIQUES, BUDGET CONTROLS AND DEVELOPMENT, ACCORDING

TO AL-URRAYED.

3. COST: INITIAL AGREEMENT IS FOR FEE OF \$150,000
FOR USC. EACH "TASK FORCE" WILL BE PAID FOR
SEPARATELY BY THE GOB, WHICH ANTICIPATES COSTS
RANGING FROM \$20-50,000 PER GROUP, NOT INCLUDING
LOCAL ACCOMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION.

4. BUREAUCRATIC NOTE: THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE OF
LACK OF INTERNAL GOB COORDINATION ON USC PROJECT.
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE DID NOT CONSULT AND DID NOT
INFORM THE PLANNING DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY OF
FINANCE UNTIL AFTER THE FACT. OTHER GOB MINISTRIES,
E.G., DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY, WHICH ARE USUALLY THE
FOCUS OF PLANNING PROCESS (TO EXTENT IT EXISTS IN
GOB) APPEAR EQUALLY IN THE DARK ABOUT THE PURPOSES OF
THE AGREEMENT. THERE WILL BE A GOOD DEAL OF BUREAU-
CRATIC INFIGHTING AND RESTRUCTURING BEFORE PLANNING
AGENCY GETS OFF THE GROUND. ON THE WHOLE, HOWEVER,
IT DOES SEEM REASONABLE TO ATTEMPT TO REMOVE SUCH
AGENCY FROM ANY PARTICULAR MINISTRY WITH ITS OWN
VESTED INTERESTS AND ATTACH IT TO THE ONLY GOVERN-
MENT-WIDE OFFICE, IE. THE PRIME MINISTER'S.
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